

# Conference Reports

## Military Health Systems Research Symposium 2015

### Surg Lt Cdr J Penn-Barwell

The US Department of Defense hosts an annual Military Health Systems Research Symposium (MHSRS). This is an opportunity for investigators in the medical fields pertinent to the military to come together and share their work. It is the de facto premier international defence medical conference and was held over four days in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, during August 2015. This year's conference was the biggest ever.

The Royal Navy (RN) was the largest UK contingent represented. Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Ed Barnard presented his US-UK collaborative work 'Selective Aortic Arch Perfusion for the Reversal of Hemorrhage-Induced Traumatic Cardiac Arrest in a Swine Model of Non-Compressible Torso Hemorrhage' and the impact and quality of this work was recognised with the award of the gold prize in the MHSRS young investigators award. His

work was also recognised with an 'honourable mention' for his poster presentation on combat pelvic fractures.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Anton Fries presented his work on 'Vascularised Composite Allotransplantation (limb transplantation)' and Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Jowan Penn-Barwell shared his work describing the last five years of combat gunshot wounds and revising the Trauma Revised Injury Severity Score (TRISS) to reflect military injuries.

Also present at the conference was Surgeon Rear Admiral Alasdair Walker, who, besides presenting the UK's experience of fertility procedures following severe pelvic trauma, was representing Surgeon General and the Defence Medical Services, as was Surgeon Captain Steve Bree, currently appointed to the British Embassy in Washington DC.



Fig. 1. Surg Lt Cdr Ed Barnard FRCEM (left) receives the gold 'MHSRS Young Investigators award'.



*Fig. 2. The RN contingent at MHSRS 2015. L to R: Surg Lt Cdr Ed Barnard; Surg RAdm Alasdair Walker OBE QHS; Surg Capt Steve Bree; Surg Lt Cdr Jowan Penn-Barwell; Surg Lt Cdr Anton Fries.*

The RN continues to be highly visible at this prestigious international defence medical research conference, underlining the productive relationship with our US counterparts and demonstrating the quality of the RNMS's research output.

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